

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

FARBOD AMINI, as Trustee of the Fayazollah
Amini Revocable Living Trust,

Plaintiff,

v.

AMERICAN ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

NO. 2:20-CV-01137-RSM

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

"Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged:

- For Plaintiff: parties' and non-parties' nonpublic financial information including, but not limited to, tax return information; credit, banking, and other financial information and documents; unlisted telephone numbers; addresses; and social security numbers.
- For Defendant: insurance underwriting files; employee guides and manuals created for internal company use; employee training materials and records created for internal company use.

[The parties must include a list of specific documents such as "company's customer list" or "plaintiff's medical records;" do not list broad categories of documents such as "sensitive business material"].

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

Nothing in this Order shall be construed to prohibit a party or a party's legal representative(s) and/or legal counsel from communicating with non-parties to the extent permitted by the Federal Rules of Evidence, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the applicable rules of professional conduct. Non-parties may agree to share their non-public and/or financial information with parties, parties' legal representative(s), parties' legal counsel, and in court filings, and no prior notice to any other party or his/its legal counsel is required before a party and/or a party's legal counsel communicates with such non-party about any topic, including without limitation such non-party's personal and/or financial information and/or whether the non-party provides evidence for this action concerning that non-party's public or non-public personal and/or financial information.

1 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

2 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
3 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
4 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
5 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
6 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
7 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

8 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
9 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
10 confidential material only to:

11 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
12 and outside consultants of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information
13 for this litigation;

14 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
15 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
16 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so
17 designated;

18 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
19 litigation and who have provided written acknowledgment that they are bound by the terms of this
20 Stipulated Protective Order;

21 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

22 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication or
23 electronic management of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the
24 copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third
25 parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

26 (f) witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who
27 have provided written acknowledgment that they are bound by the terms of this Stipulated

1 Protective Order, unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. The
 2 court reporter must be instructed to designate deposition testimony regarding confidential
 3 information as confidential on the transcript;

4 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
 5 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

6 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
 7 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
 8 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
 9 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
 10 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
 11 designating party must identify the basis for designating the specific confidential information at
 12 issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to
 13 sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be
 14 followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to
 15 file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must
 16 satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion
 17 to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in
 18 accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

19 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

20 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
 21 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
 22 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
 23 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
 24 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
 25 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
 26 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement (see, *e.g.*, section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

(a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties are presumed to have reserved their rights to identify all protected testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

(d) Electronic data produced in native file format: When a party produces electronic data in “native file format” so that the data cannot be physically marked “confidential,” that party may designate the native file information as confidential by serving on all other parties a written notice specifically identifying specific native format files as confidential pursuant to this order. “Native file format” refers to the default file format that a computer application uses to create or save files; by way of example and not limitation, this includes Microsoft Word documents, spreadsheet documents, and email files. This paragraph shall not be interpreted to require or to limit production of discovery materials in native file format.

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

(a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons provide written acknowledgment that they are bound by the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise. IT IS SO

STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

BERRY & BECKETT, PLLP

DATED: August 12, 2021

/s/Guy W. Beckett
Guy W. Beckett, WSBA #14939
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: August 12, 2021

KARR TUTTLE CAMPBELL

/s/Robert A. Radcliffe
Robert A. Radcliffe, WSBA #19035
Attorneys for Defendant

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED this 13th day of August, 2021.



RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kay M. Sagawinia, affirm and state that I am employed by Karr Tuttle Campbell in King County, in the State of Washington. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is: 701 Fifth Ave., Suite 3300, Seattle, WA 98101. On this day, I caused to be filed with the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington a true and correct copy of the foregoing document. I caused the same to be served on the parties listed below in the manner indicated.

Guy W. Beckett, WSBA #14939
 Berry & Beckett
 1708 Bellevue Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98122
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

<input type="checkbox"/>	Via U.S. Mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Via Hand Delivery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Via Electronic Mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Via Overnight Mail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CM/ECF via court's website

DATED this 6th day of August 2020.

KARR TUTTLE CAMPBELL

By: /s/Kay M. Sagawinia

Kay M. Sagawinia
 Legal Assistant
 ksagawinia@karrtuttle.com